

INFORMATION REPORT

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REPORT

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SUBJECT Information on Techna, Zbrojovka Brno,  
Skoda and Other Czech Industrial Concerns

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the production of Techna, Zbrojovka Brno, Skoda and other Czech industrial  
concerns.

1.

Podbrezova is able to produce 140,000 tons of steel per year by  
means of four Martin furnaces. Reconstruction of the plant and conservative  
planning on the part of the plant management have reduced the present output  
to about 85,000 tons. However, the production goal of 120,000 tons during  
1950 will probably be reached.\*

2.

The major producers of machine tools in Czechoslovakia are:

- a. Machine Tool Factory at Kurim (formerly Zbrojovka), employing 4,500 workers  
to produce drill presses.
- b. Volman in Celakovice (051/L99) - lathes, diathermal furnaces.
- c. Vaverka in Lipnik (Leipnik - P50/014) - lathes and shapers.
- d. Kamenicek in Hostivar (051/L88) - polishing machines.
- e. Pohajsky in Hostivar - polishing machines.
- f. Skoda in Pilsen - revolving and automatic lathes.
- g. Skoda in Smichov (051/L78).
- h. Ceska Zbrojovka in Strakonice (N50/Q49) - round polishing machines.
- i. M.A.S. (Moravske Aktiove Strojirne - formerly Bata Shoe Plant).

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A number of smaller factories in addition to some departments of the larger plants also make machine tools. These include:

- a. Heavy Machine Plant at Vyhne (Q49/C43).
- b. Povazska Bystrica.
- c. Kovosmalt, Trnava (P49/T22).
- d. Sellier and Bellot in Vlasim (O50/104).
- e. CKD in Liben (O50/187).
- f. Kosar in Prague.

Occasionally, heavy machine tools are made in Vitkovice. All factories which specialize in the manufacture of machine tools are organized in the T.O.S. (Tovarny Obrabecich Stroju) National Enterprise in Prague. [ ] the number of workers who are occupied in the branch to be 25,000. With the exception of special machine tools and the heaviest machines, all types can be produced in Czechoslovakia. Presses for making automobile chassis cannot be produced.

3. [ ]

[ ] The plants of Zbrojovka [ ] are as follows:

- a. Brno - Zabrdovice
- b. Brno - Cejl
- c. Lisen
- d. Vsetin
- e. Uhersky Brod (P50/T29) (formerly Ceska Zbrojovka)
- f. Janeczek - Prague
- g. Ogar - Prague
- h. Valo in Kysucke Nove Mesto
- i. Holisov
- j. Prague - Vrsovice
- k. Perstejn
- l. Sellier - Bellot in Vlasim
- m. Cheb
- n. Stadion in Rakovnik (N51/L28)
- o. Bohuslavice

In addition to the above, there are some smaller factories attached to Zbrojovka Brno. In 1945 - '46 all factories producing machine tools and optics were detached from the firm which was called Zbrojovka before the war. The same thing happened to the pre-war Podbrezova and Povazska Bystrica enterprises in Slovakia. [ ]

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[redacted] the products of these plants include all types of rifles (especially Mauser type), actions, automatic rifles (gas-operated Kautsky type), light machine guns (Bren and Z.B. types) heavy machine guns (model 37, 7.92 mm), 15 mm, 20 mm, and 30 mm anti-aircraft guns, infantry ammunition, 7.92 mm, 12.5 mm, 15 mm, 20 mm, 30 mm explosive ammunition, artillery ammunition and hand grenades. The production of weapons after the war was drastically reduced, and in many plants completely stopped. After February 1948 war production was again increased. The plants of Zbrojovka employed a total of approximately 25,000 workers in 1948; by now, they probably number about 32,000. During 1947, in the neighborhood of 5 to 10 percent of Czech workers were engaged in war production. By the end of 1950, however, this figure should increase to over 50 percent.

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4.

[redacted] The production of roller bearings started in Lisen in 1948. The machinery is of German origin (Fichtel and Sachs) delivered to Czechoslovakia as reparations in 1947 - 1948. It would not be difficult to obtain a complete list of these machine tools from the Reparations Commission in Brussels. Zbrojovka promised to produce one and one-half million roller bearings during 1948 but did not succeed. The planned capacity of the bearing plant at Kysucke Nove Mesto is six to eight million bearings per year.\*\* However, this rate of production cannot be reached before 1952 since only the first factory buildings were completed in 1949. The deficiencies of the Czechoslovak bearing industry consist in the lack of machine tools, especially those used in the production of balls. Raw materials needed in the production of roller bearings are delivered by the Poldi Steel Plant in Kladno.

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5.

[redacted] the terrain near Tatranska Lomnica is suitable for the construction of a factory. Kablo was interested in this as a construction site, but higher authorities rejected the plan since this is one of the important recreation spots in Czechoslovakia.

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6.

[redacted] Skoda and CKD competed before the war in the production of tanks. The CKD tank was said to be more successful from the point of view of construction, but Skoda's possibilities of production and its political position were better than those of CKD. During the war, both enterprises delivered a total of 900 tanks per month. The tanks were medium-size, about sixteen tons. That production was stopped after the war, but some small deliveries were made for export. Zbrojovka Brno did not produce tanks. It may be that the tractor production in Brno could be shifted to tank production.

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[redacted] New plants are being planned in Slovakia for this purpose.

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7.

[redacted] The main principles of the reorganization in 1948 (sic) were the separation of trade from production, and the reorganization of national enterprises into simple production units. The number of national enterprises increased from 62 (in the machinery industry) in Bohemia to about 160 and in Slovakia from seven to 22.

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[redacted] It was a political action and almost all responsible men in the General Management tried to moderate the confusion caused by this activity of the Communist Party.

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8.

[redacted] The greatest impediments to Czech production are:

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a. Confusion in the highest planning office.

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- b. Lack of raw materials such as steel, metal scrap, and all non-ferrous metals except zinc.
- c. Lack of sheet steel.
- d. Lack of special machine tools, especially of heavy machine tools.
- e. Confusion in the factories caused by technically incompetent politicians directing the work.
- f. Lack of specialists, skilled workers, draftsmen, designers, research engineers. The Czech universities were closed for six years during the German occupation, and the victims of German brutalities were carefully chosen from among the intellectual class. The social revolution and the non-stop reorganization after the war affected the ability of Czech industry to a great degree.

9. [REDACTED] 25X1  
[REDACTED] The production of anti-corrosive pumps for special purposes is probable. 25X1

10. [REDACTED] 25X1  
[REDACTED] During the first half of 1949 Techna did work on the design and construction of machine tools for the mass production of the following items: 25X1

- a. Manet motorcycles for the factory in Povazska Bystrica.
- b. Bellows for the same factory.
- c. Hydrometers for Stara Tura.
- d. Drawing instruments for a plant in Bratislava.

Construction work was being done on an automatic machine for producing bulbs, a thermostat, a kitchen range, a cash register, machine tools for grinding lenses for Goerz, Bratislava, a machine for grinding diamonds, and a machine for the oxygen-drilling of diamond dies. Developmental work was also being carried on in the field of "cold light" under the direction of Engineer Hensgen from Osram, Berlin.

As late as September 1949 no particular Soviet orders were being worked on by the plant. The designers and workers were too unreliable from the political standpoint. However, there was a secret military department in the factory where a new machine gun with a high rate of fire was to be designed.

11. [REDACTED]

The usual method for grinding diamonds employs a diamond powder mixed with oil as an abrasive. Some new methods using oxygen have been considered to speed up the grinding process. For cutting larger amounts of diamonds, a new oxygen cutting method has been developed.

12. [REDACTED] 25X1  
[REDACTED] The Storek plant in Brno produces machine tools, especially punch presses. The plant is also said to have a steel foundry, and employs about 300 workers. 25X1

13. [REDACTED] 25X1  
[REDACTED] The MAS plant in Usti is subordinate to MAS factory in Tabor, which employs 1,200 workers and produces machine tools, especially radial drilling machines. In MAS-Usti there is a power plant with a capacity of 3,000 kilowatts. The Flaubert (sic) Machine Tool Plant, Warnsdorf, makes a specialty of lathes and drill presses. 25X1

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14.

The principle producers of industrial control instruments are Skoda-Pilsen, Zbrojovka - Brno, Zbrojovka - Prague (Janescek), Zbrojovka - Vsetin; Sigma Pumpy - Lutin. Many of the larger plants make their own measuring instruments. However there is still a great lack of precision measuring instruments.

15. Leading personnel of Techna includes the following:

a. Director Ing Krisko

b. Production Manager Ing. Nebesky

c. Chief Designer Ing. C. Mokrejs

16.

17. The main designers of Techna are as follows:

a. Jan Chamrad

b. Skacel

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c. Bohus

d. Svirak

e. Engineer Mechura

f. Malik

g. Jan Zetti and Mirek Zetti.

h. Jan Kunc

i. Zouhar

j. Krenak

k. Skotak

l. Friedrich Hensgen

m. Kalina, Kais, Sladky

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